

## Polydrug Use Training workshop

**Tuesday 4th October - Moldron Hotel Parnell Square - Dublin**

In many areas of Ireland contemporary drug use is characterised by patterns of combination drug use. In its broadest terms, polydrug use is defined as the use of an illegal drug plus another legal or illegal drug. The broad definition of 'polydrug' used by many Member States is the use of more than one drug or type of drug by an individual — consumed at the same time or sequentially (as defined in the WHO lexicon).

**In Europe, the concept of polydrug use dates back to the 1970s.** The combinations of drugs identified in mortality and overdoses provide indications of particular risks associated with drug combinations. In fatal overdoses, at least one other drug or alcohol is involved in over 50% of cases in the United Kingdom and up to 90% in Ireland. Benzodiazepines, alcohol, methadone and cocaine are the substances most frequently found combined with opiates EMCDDA (2002)

Whilst it is difficult to overdose on benzodiazepines alone, the combination of a large dose of benzodiazepines and a large dose of alcohol or an opiate drug such as heroin or methadone may be fatal. There is a long history of individuals combining two or more interacting substances, to enhance or to moderate the effects and experience of drug use

Participants will explore the emergence and sustained increase in polydrug use, consider potential health and social harm resulting from polydrug use and review a framework to identify and respond to the needs of polydrug users

### Learning Objectives

- To raise awareness of the extent of polydrug use is normalised among drug users and drug using communities
- To gain an understanding of the physiological, psychological and pharmacological effects of polydrug use
- To raise awareness of the increased risks associated with polydrug use, psychoactive substances and speedball injecting.
- To consider effective strategies and interventions for reducing potential harm and risks associated with polydrug use

**Download further information** below

**Region:** Dublin

**Expiry date:** 04/10/2011

**Date Entered/Updated:** 16/08/2011

### Attachment

 [booking\\_form\\_oct.pdf](#) [1] [2]

---

Source URL (retrieved on 24/08/2011 - 14:42): <http://www.activelink.ie/node/6733>

**Links:**

[1] [http://www.activelink.ie/webfm\\_send/1912/1](http://www.activelink.ie/webfm_send/1912/1)

[2] [http://www.activelink.ie/webfm\\_send/1912](http://www.activelink.ie/webfm_send/1912)